



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Responds to Congressional Inquiry Regarding Voter Fraud

Letter Sent to U.S. Representatives Cummings, Brady and Clyburn

BALTIMORE, MD (March 7, 2017) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh responded to a Congressional inquiry requesting “confirmed incidents of voter fraud.” In his response Attorney General Frosh said, “The short answer to your question is that, to date, there are no cases in which it has been determined that an individual who cast a vote in the federal elections held in November 2016 was legally prohibited from doing so.” In a letter dated January 25, 2017 to Attorney General Frosh, Congressmen Cummings, Brady and Clyburn asked the Attorney General and the Maryland State Board of Elections to provide, “all specific cases in which either of your offices has determined that an individual who cast a vote in the federal elections held in November 2016 was legally prohibited from doing so.” The letter went on to state: “To investigate these claims, we are seeking information regarding confirmed incidents of voter fraud.”

Attorney General Frosh’s letter outlined the exhaustive and lengthy process conducted by the Maryland State Board of Elections to identify suspected cases of voter fraud - a process that normally takes four to five months. As that process is not yet fully complete for the 2016 election, the Office of Attorney General looked to the 2012 election to provide background and context. “When SBE completed that process after the 2012 presidential general election, the result was two confirmed cases of voter fraud out of a total voter turnout of 2,734,176. The 2012 result is consistent with prior elections,” Attorney General Frosh said in the letter.

The Attorney General’s letter outlined the various ways in which the State Board learns of voting irregularities during a particular election and its aftermath. Most voting irregularities are discovered when the State Board reconciles the millions of voting records available to it, comparing records reflected in the electronic poll books used in the check-in process during early voting and on Election Day with the records of absentee and provisional ballots entered into the State Board’s MDVOTERS system. That comparison generates a list of people who appear in *both* sets of records, and thus appear to have attempted to cast *two* ballots. That process is still ongoing for the 2016 General Election, but in the 2012 Presidential General Election, this first step yielded 195 instances—out of 2,734,176 total votes cast—where election records indicate that two ballots may have been submitted by one voter. In the vast majority of these cases, however, the person had not *successfully* voted twice. Instead, at least one of the two ballots was simply rejected by the local board of elections during the statutorily-required post-election canvassing process. Based on the State Board’s experience with prior elections, the vast majority of these irregularities are due to honest mistakes or human error.

The letter concludes: “While the process by which the State Board of Elections identifies voting irregularities from the 2016 Presidential General Election remains ongoing, its experience with prior elections suggests that the number of confirmed instances of voter fraud will be miniscule.”

The full letter is available [here](#).